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WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

True to my promise of a while back, I'm making an effort to present some John Lustig stories in the pages of the Disney comic books. The back-up in this issue is a nicely-written piece, illustrated by the great Vicar, that shows off John's ability to craft truly entertaining tales. Also check out this month's edition of *Mickey Mouse and Friends*. It features "The Billion-Bean Stampede," a vintage *DuckTales* story from 1990, written by John and illustrated by William Van Horn.

I first became acquainted with John a couple of years before that, while working at Gladstone Publishing. William Van Horn had recently succeeded in breaking into the Disney comic book market by drawing "filler" material—one- to three-page gags—for then-Editor-in-Chief Byron Erickson. Bill turned in a couple of those that had been written by his friend, John Lustig. They were, of course, excellent, and were accepted. "Poisoned Palate," a one-pager, was the first to see print, in *Donald Duck* 268 (1988), followed by another one-page gag, "Shaping Up," in *Uncle Scrooge* 231 (1988) and a two-pager, "Seafood Blues," in *Donald Duck Adventures* 12 (1989). It wasn't long after that Gladstone decided to do a comic based on the popular new *DuckTales* cartoon series. Quite a bit of original material was needed to fill the books and much of that task fell to Van Horn, who collaborated with John twice, on "Windfall on Mt. G'Zoontight" (*DuckTales* 10, 1989) and "Billion-Bean Stampede" (*DT* 13, 1990). John also collaborated with Bill on several non-DuckTales stories, including my personal favorite, "The Amazon Queen" (*DDA* 20, 1990).

Thankfully, John made the transition from working for Gladstone to working for Egmont, Denmark, where he's still producing stories. And as long as he writes them, Gemstone will print them!

nomscans~HaCsA — *John Clark*

• IN THIS ISSUE •

***Donald Duck* THE LONG RACE TO PUMPKINBURG**
Story & Art: Carl Barks
(WDCS 54, March 1945)
Color: Susan Daigle-Leach

***Mickey Mouse* FOES IN FELLOWSHIP**
Story: Donald D. Markstein
Art: César Ferioli
Color: Egmont & Pamela Rambo
Lettering: Jon Babcock

***Donald Duck* THE SWELL OF SUCCESS**
Story: John Lustig
Art: Vicar
Color: Marie Javins
Lettering: Susie Lee

Front cover art by Marco Rota, color by Sue Kolberg

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9TH
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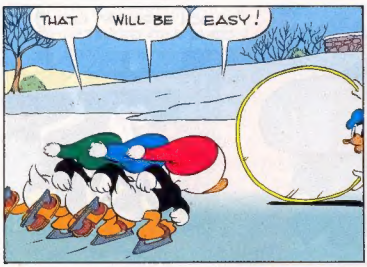
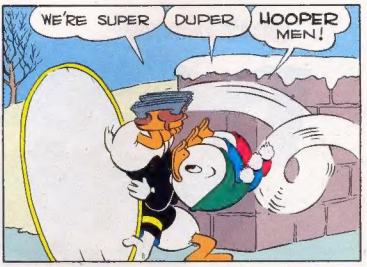
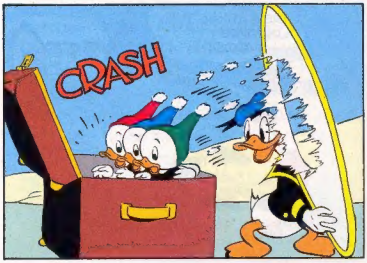
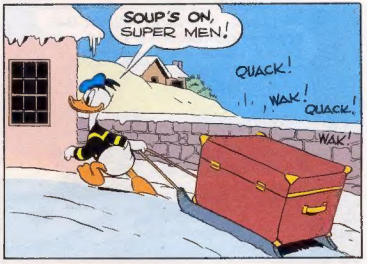
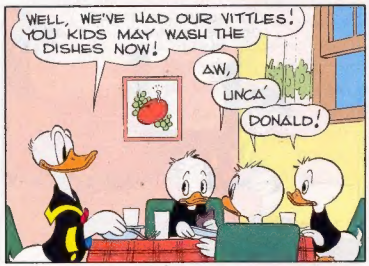
WALT DISNEY presents
DONALD DUCK
LUNCH IS READY, KIDS! COME AND GET IT!
I SEE 'EM SKATING ON THE POND- PRETENDING THEY DON'T HEAR ME!
THEY THINK THEY ARE PRETTY GOOD!
IF THEY WON'T COME TO LUNCH WILLINGLY, I'LL HAVE TO SHANGHAI THEM!
OUT-SMARTING THOSE KIDS IS ALWAYS FUN!
YOU'RE DOING ALL RIGHT, BOYS, BUT HERE'S ONE STUNT YOU CAN'T DO!
YOU CAN'T JUMP THROUGH THIS HOOP!

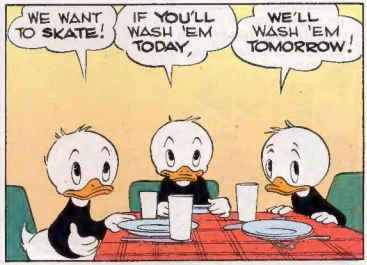

THAT
WILL BE
EASY!

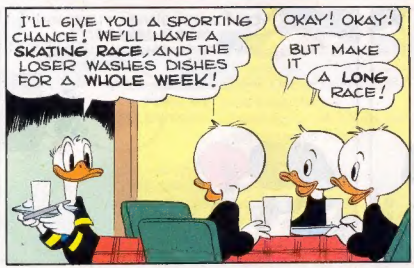

WE'RE SUPER
DUPER
HOOPER MEN!

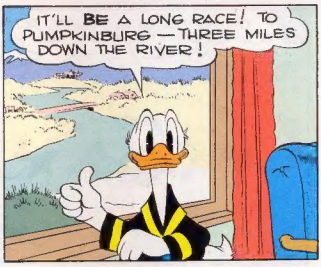

CRASH

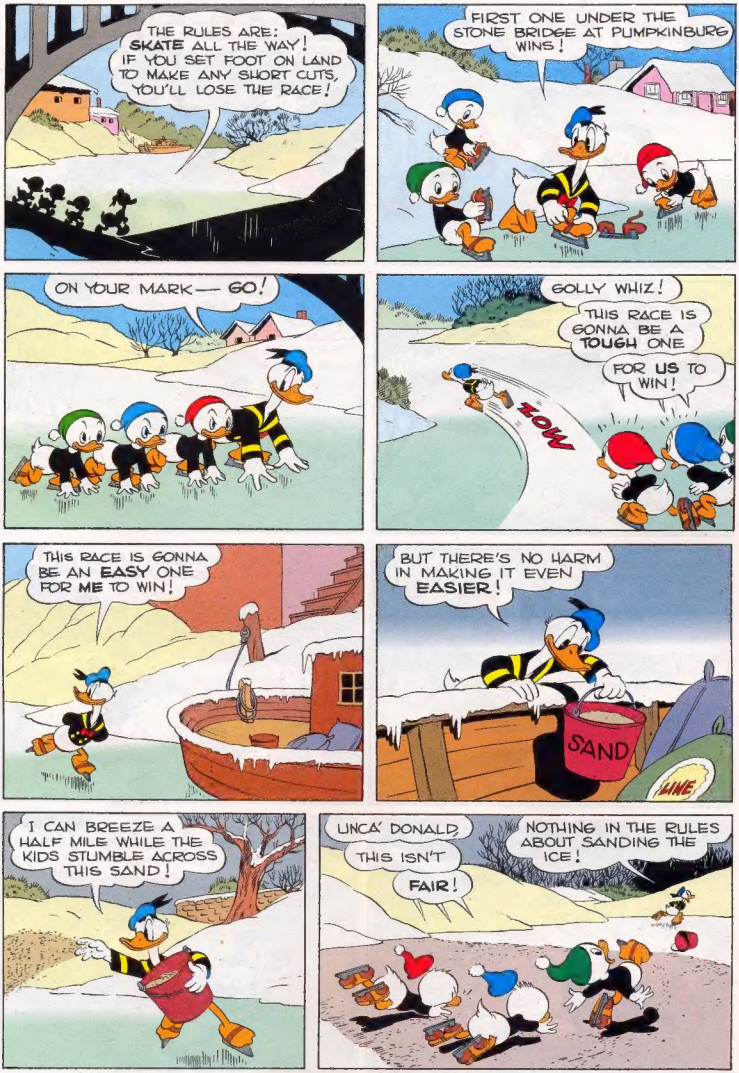

SOUP'S ON, SUPER MEN!
QUACK!
WAK!
QUACK!
WAK!

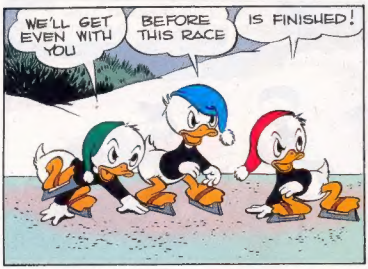

WELL, WE'VE HAD OUR VITTLES! YOU KIDS MAY WASH THE DISHES NOW!
AW, LINCA'
DONALD!


WE WANT TO SKATE!
IF YOU'LL WASH 'EM TODAY,
WE'LL WASH 'EM TOMORROW!

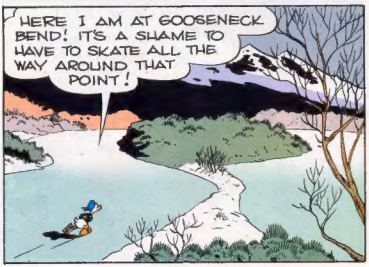

I'LL GIVE YOU A SPORTING CHANCE! WE'LL HAVE A SKATING RACE, AND THE LOSER WASHES DISHES FOR A WHOLE WEEK!
OKAY! OKAY!
BUT MAKE IT A LONG RACE!


IT'LL BE A LONG RACE! TO PUMPKINBURG — THREE MILES DOWN THE RIVER!


THE RULES ARE: SKATE ALL THE WAY! IF YOU SET FOOT ON LAND TO MAKE ANY SHORT CUTS, YOU'LL LOSE THE RACE!
FIRST ONE UNDER THE STONE BRIDGE AT PUMPKINBURG WINS!
ON YOUR MARK— GO!
GOLLY WHIZ!
THIS RACE IS GONNA BE A TOUGH ONE
FOR US TO WIN!
ZOW
THIS RACE IS GONNA BE AN EASY ONE FOR ME TO WIN!
BUT THERE'S NO HARM IN MAKING IT EVEN EASIER!
SAND
LINE
I CAN BREEZE A HALF MILE WHILE THE KIDS STUMBLE ACROSS THIS SAND!
LINCA' DONALD, THIS ISN'T FAIR!
NOTHING IN THE RULES ABOUT SANDING THE ICE!


WE'LL GET EVEN WITH YOU
BEFORE THIS RACE
IS FINISHED!

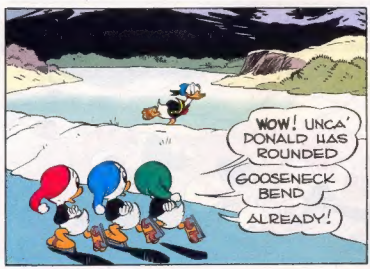
HE'S SO FAR AHEAD
WE'LL BE LUCKY
IF WE EVEN SEE HIM AGAIN!

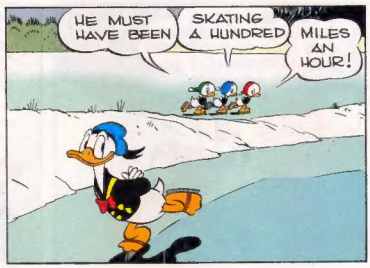

HERE I AM AT GOOSENECK BEND! IT'S A SHAME TO HAVE TO SKATE ALL THE WAY AROUND THAT POINT!

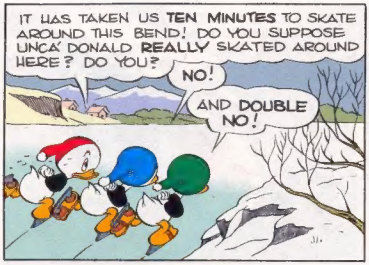
I COULD VAULT ACROSS THAT LITTLE NECK AND SAVE MYSELF A LOT OF SWEAT!

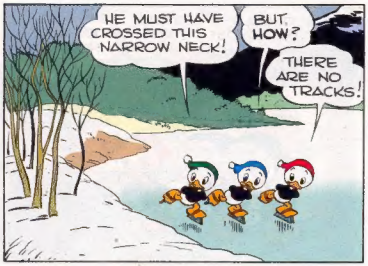
AS LONG AS MY SKATES DON'T TOUCH GROUND, I WON'T BE BREAKING THE RULES — MUCH!

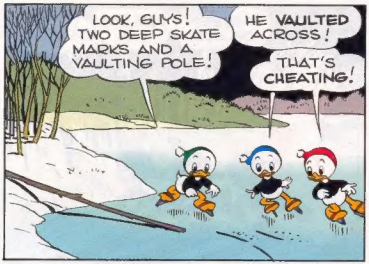
SUCCESS! MY BRAIN IS REALLY COOKING TODAY!

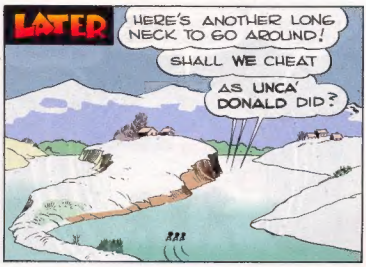

WOW! UNCA' DONALD HAS ROUNDED GOOSENECK BEND ALREADY!

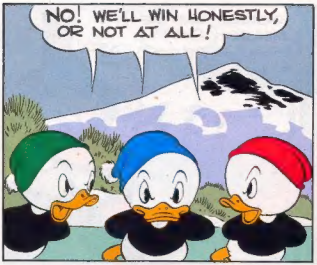

HE MUST HAVE BEEN
SKATING A HUNDRED
MILES AN HOUR!


IT HAS TAKEN US TEN MINUTES TO SKATE AROUND THIS BEND! DO YOU SUPPOSE UNCA' DONALD REALLY SKATED AROUND HERE? DO YOU?
NO!
AND DOUBLE NO!

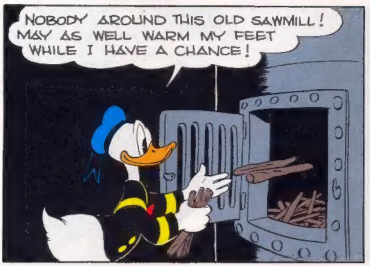

HE MUST HAVE CROSSED THIS NARROW NECK!
BUT HOW?
THERE ARE NO TRACKS!

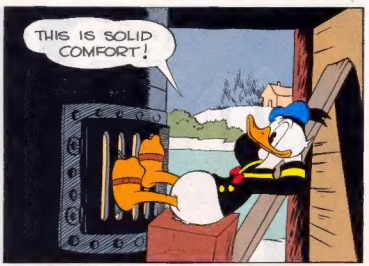

LOOK, GUYS! TWO DEEP SKATE MARKS AND A VAULTING POLE!
HE VAULTED ACROSS!
THAT'S CHEATING!


LATER
HERE'S ANOTHER LONG NECK TO GO AROUND!
SHALL WE CHEAT
AS UNCA' DONALD DID?

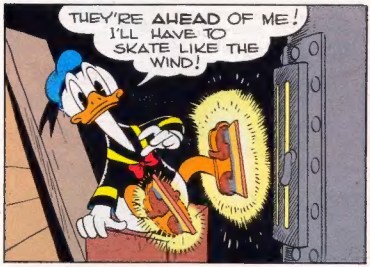

NO! WE'LL WIN HONESTLY, OR NOT AT ALL!

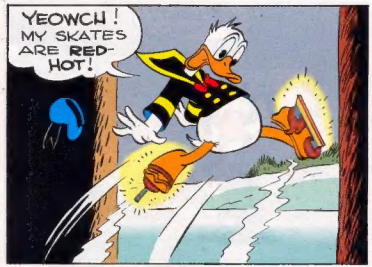
I'M SO FAR AHEAD OF THE KIDS I CAN AFFORD TO STOP AND REST A WHILE!

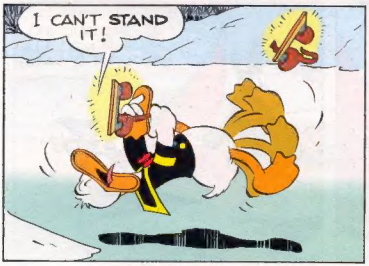

NOBODY AROUND THIS OLD SAWMILL! MAY AS WELL WARM MY FEET WHILE I HAVE A CHANCE!


THIS IS SOLID COMFORT!

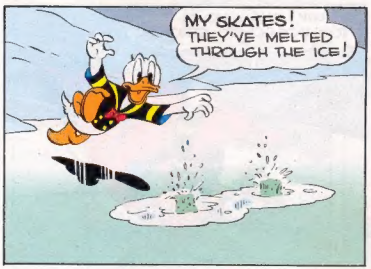
UNCA' DONALD MUST BE ALMOST
TO THE FINISH LINE
BY NOW!
HEY, LOOK! A WATER TUNNEL THROUGH THE POINT!
IT'S FROZEN OVER!
WE CAN SKATE THROUGH HERE
AND SAVE AT LEAST A MILE!
AND, BEST OF ALL,
WE'RE NOT
CHEATING!
THERE'S THE OLD SAWMILL!
WE'RE ALMOST
TO PUMPKINBURG!
ANOTHER MINUTE
AND THE RACE
WILL BE OVER!
I HEAR VOICES! SOUNDS LIKE THE KIDS!
IT IS THE KIDS! HOW DID THEY GET HERE SO SOON?

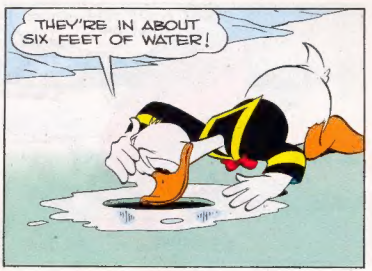

THEY'RE AHEAD OF ME! I'LL HAVE TO SKATE LIKE THE WIND!

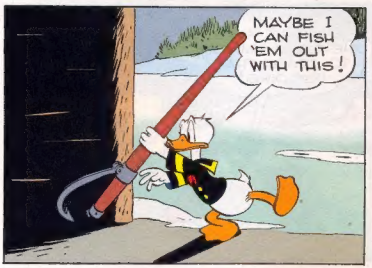

YEOWCH! MY SKATES ARE RED-HOT!

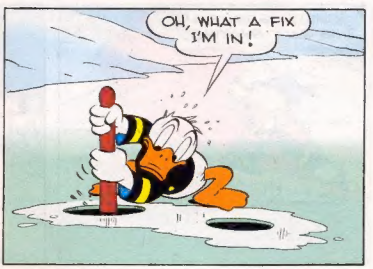

I CAN'T STAND IT!

WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?


MY SKATES! THEY'VE MELTED THROUGH THE ICE!

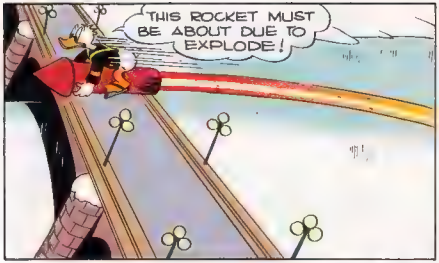

THEY'RE IN ABOUT SIX FEET OF WATER!

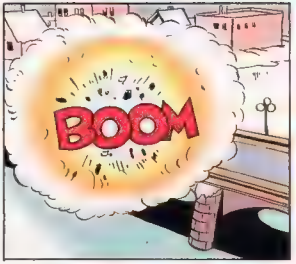

MAYBE I CAN FISH 'EM OUT WITH THIS!

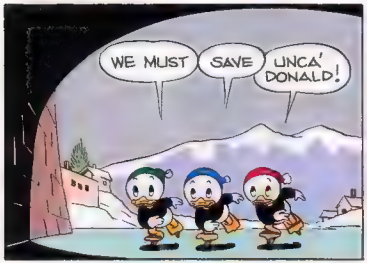

OH, WHAT A FIX I'M IN!

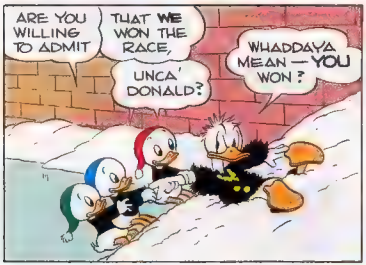
AT LAST!
IN ANOTHER TWENTY SECONDS THE KIDS WILL BE UNDER THE BRIDGE!
ZOW
I'VE GOT TO GO FASTER!
THIS SAIL WILL HELP ME! I'LL RETURN IT LATER!
BOY! THIS IS THE STUFF!
ZIP
AWK! THE WIND IS TOO DOGGONED STRONG!
SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS ISN'T SKATING!
I CAN'T MAKE THE TURN! I'M GOIN' TO CRASH THAT BUILDING!

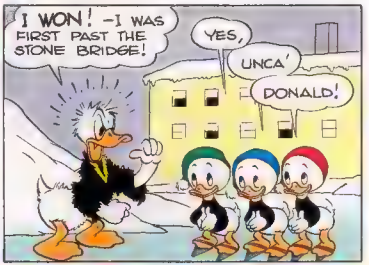
BRIMSTONE FIREWORKS Co.
CRASH
LUCKY ME! I GRABBED THIS ROCKET!
REAR DOOR
THIS MAY BE SUICIDE, BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO WIN THIS RACE!
NOTHING IN THE RULES AGAINST USING A ROCKET!
IT'S UNCA' DONALD!
WHAT'S HE RIDING?
A ROCKET!
HELP ME WITH THIS PLANK! WE HAVE TO DEFLECT HIM, OR HE WILL PASS US!
HEY! THAT'S NOT FAIR!
NOTHING IN THE RULES AGAINST USING A PLANK!

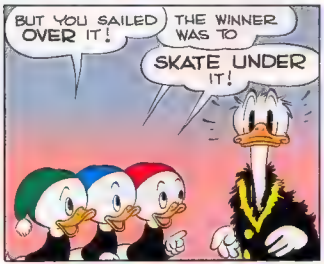




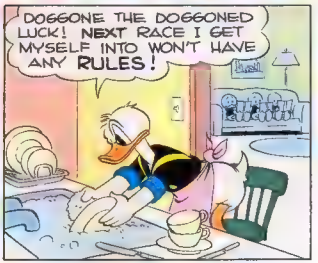






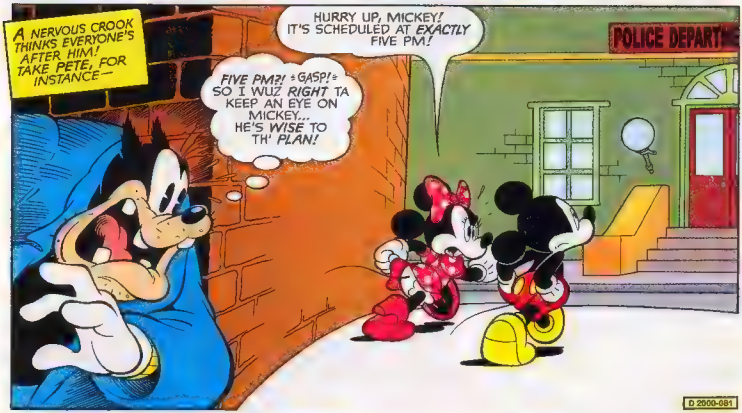


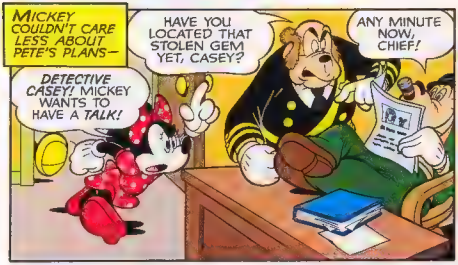
AND SO FOR A WHOLE WEEK

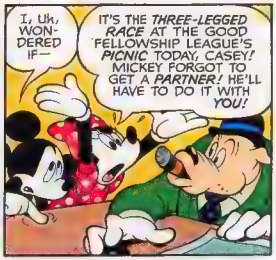


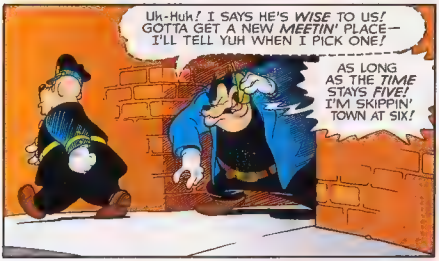
Walt Disney's

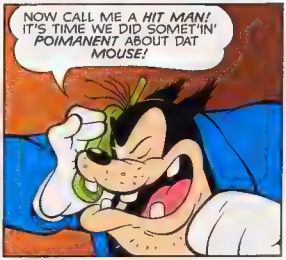
MICKEY MOUSE in Foes in Fellowship


A NERVOUS CROOK THINKS EVERYONE'S AFTER HIM! TAKE PETE, FOR INSTANCE—
HURRY UP, MICKEY! IT'S SCHEDULED AT EXACTLY FIVE PM!
POLICE DEPART
FIVE PM?! ÷GASP!÷ SO I WUZ RIGHT TA KEEP AN EYE ON MICKEY... HE'S WISE TO TH' PLAN!
D 2000-081

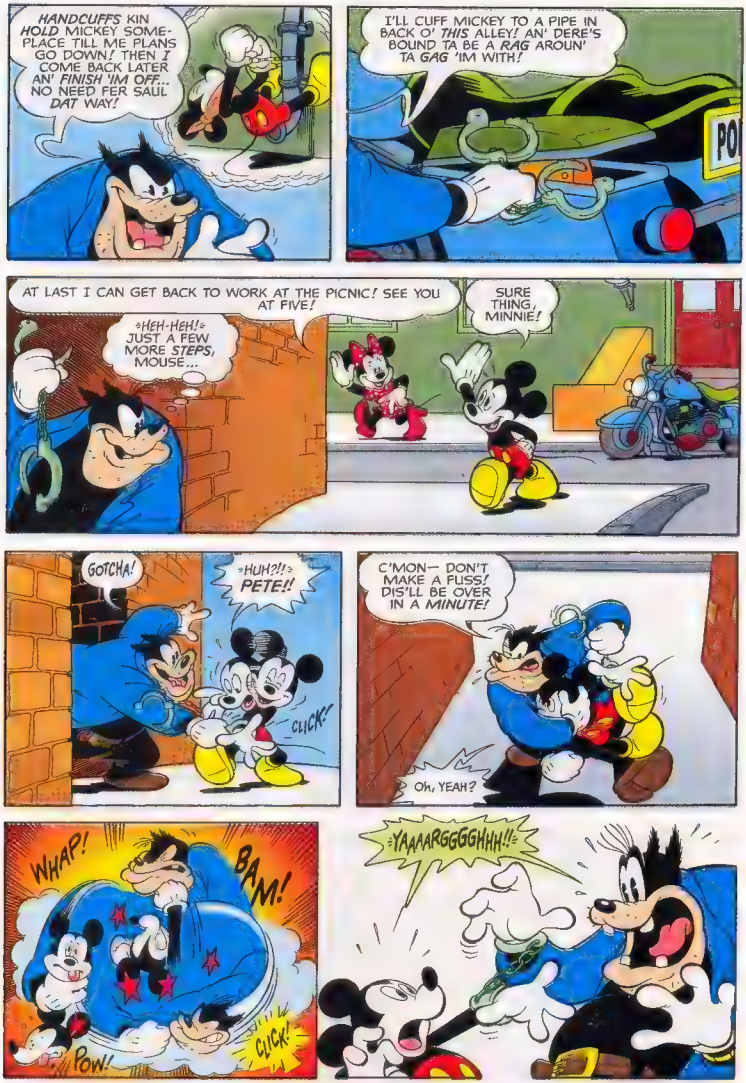

MICKEY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT PETE'S PLANS—
HAVE YOU LOCATED THAT STOLEN GEM YET, CASEY?
ANY MINUTE NOW, CHIEF!
DETECTIVE CASEY! MICKEY WANTS TO HAVE A TALK!


I, Uh, WON-DERED IF—
IT'S THE THREE-LEGGED RACE AT THE GOOD FELLOWSHIP LEAGUE'S PICNIC TODAY, CASEY! MICKEY FORGOT TO GET A PARTNER! HE'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITH YOU!

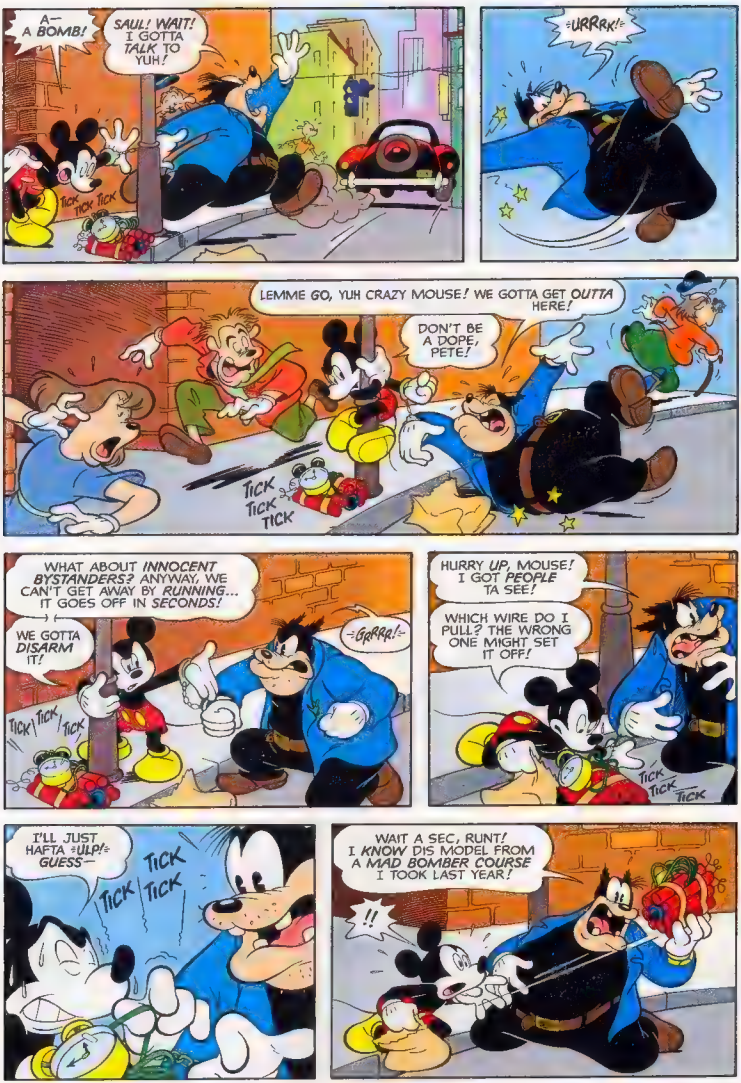

Uh-Huh! I SAYS HE'S WISE TO US! GOTTA GET A NEW MEETIN' PLACE— I'LL TELL YUH WHEN I PICK ONE!
AS LONG AS THE TIME STAYS FIVE! I'M SKIPPIN' TOWN AT SIX!



PERMANENT? I'LL CALL SAUL THE SLOB!
TH' GUY WHOSE MESSY HITS TAKE OUT LOTSA BYSTANDERS? LONG AS HE DON'T CHARGE US FOR 'EM! ÷HAR-HAR!÷ DAT'S GREAT!
...OR IS IT?
IS IT?
I'M SHOCKED, Mr. CASEY! EVERYONE ENJOYS A NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC! DE MARIS PARK, FIVE PM!
BUT I DON'T DO THREE-LEGGED RACES, MA'AM! MY LUMBAGO—
SEE, MINNIE? I'D NEVER WIN WITH CASEY AS MY PARTNER!
÷BAH!÷ AS LONG AS I'M IN CHARGE OF THE PICNIC ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE, EVERYBODY WILL BY GOSH BE ENTERTAINED!
FIVE PM! BE THERE!
I'LL BRING THE WHOLE FORCE ALONG, MINNIE! THEY'LL ALL BE ENTERTAINED!
THANK YOU, CHIEF! YOU'RE A GENTLEMAN!
LUMBAGO... WINNEBAGO... HOW'DYOURDAY-GO...
BACK OUT-SIDE—
NO! IT AIN'T GREAT TA SIC ANOTHER GUY ON GOOD OL' MICKEY! I ALWAYS WANTED TA DO HIM IN MESELF!
IF I COULD JUST KEEP 'IM OUTTA ME HAIR TILL FIVE PM CAME AN' WENT—
SAY!
POLICE

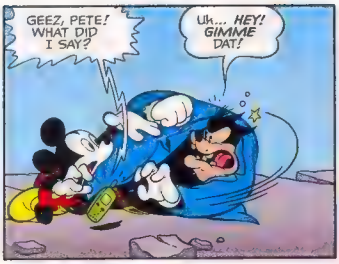

HANDCUFFS KIN HOLD MICKEY SOMEPLACE TILL ME PLANS GO DOWN! THEN I COME BACK LATER AN' FINISH 'IM OFF... NO NEED FER SAUL DAT WAY!
I'LL CUFF MICKEY TO A PIPE IN BACK O' THIS ALLEY! AN' DERE'S BOUND TA BE A RAG AROUN' TA GAG 'IM WITH!
AT LAST I CAN GET BACK TO WORK AT THE PICNIC! SEE YOU AT FIVE!
SURE THING, MINNIE!
=HEH-HEH!= JUST A FEW MORE STEPS, MOUSE...
GOTCHA!
=HUH?!= PETE!!
CLICK!
C'MON-- DON'T MAKE A FUSS! DIS'LL BE OVER IN A MINUTE!
Oh, YEAH?
WHAP!
BAM!
POW!
CLICK!
=YAAAARGGGGHHH!!=

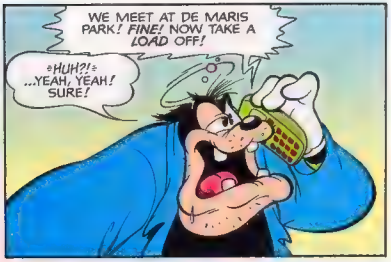
FER GOSH SAKES, PETE! WHY'D YA DO A DUMB THING LIKE THIS?!
IT'S, Uh... JUST A LITTLE JOKE! PIPE DOWN!
WHY SHOULD I— =MMPH!=
'CAUSE IF YUH DON'T, BAD T'INGS MIGHT HAPPEN TO YUH! NOW LEMME THINK!
WAS IT JUST A LITTLE JOKE THE LAST TWENTY-THREE TIMES YOU TRIED TO BUMP ME OFF?
SHUT UP! I'M WARNIN' YA—
WHY SHUT UP? WE HAFTA TELL THE POLICE! THEY HAVE KEYS TO THESE CUFFS, PETE!
PETE?
B-BUMP OFF!... SAUL...!
NO! I'LL BE CAUGHT IN ME OWN TRAP!
PETE, THE POLICE STATION'S AT THAT END OF THE ALLEY—
TICK TICK TICK
=YAAAARGH!=


A— A BOMB!
SAUL! WAIT! I GOTTA TALK TO YUH!
TICK TICK TICK
=URRRK!=
LEMME GO, YUH CRAZY MOUSE! WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
DON'T BE A DOPE, PETE!
TICK TICK TICK
WHAT ABOUT INNOCENT BYSTANDERS? ANYWAY, WE CAN'T GET AWAY BY RUNNING... IT GOES OFF IN SECONDS!
WE GOTTA DISARM IT!
=GRRR!=
TICK TICK TICK
HURRY UP, MOUSE! I GOT PEOPLE TA SEE!
WHICH WIRE DO I PULL? THE WRONG ONE MIGHT SET IT OFF!
TICK TICK TICK
I'LL JUST HAFTA =ULP!= GUESS—
TICK TICK TICK
WAIT A SEC, RUNT! I KNOW DIS MODEL FROM A MAD BOMBER COURSE I TOOK LAST YEAR!
!!

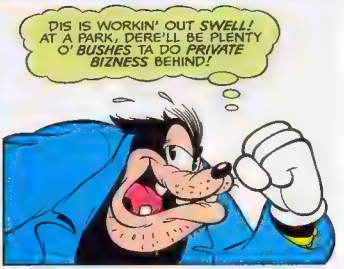
GOTTA PRESS DIS, AN' PUSH DAT, AN'— DERE!
TICK TICK— FZZZ
=AAAH-HHH!=
=YEEEEOW!=
BOOM!
WHY, YOU...
...I'LL BREAK YER—
I WANT ANSWERS, PETE! WHO'S SAUL? WHY DID SOMEBODY THROW A BOMB AT US? AND ISN'T IT TIME WE WENT TO THE COPS?
TIME!
=ACK!= IT'S ALMOST FIVE!
ARE WE GOING TO THE COPS NOW?
NAW! TO A SAFECRACKER I KNOW. JEST OVER TH' BRIDGE! HE CAN TAKE OUR CUFFS OFF IN A JIFFY!
AN' WHEN HE DOES, YOU AN' I KIN WIND UP OUR LONG RELATIONSHIP FOREVER— IN PRIVATE!
=ULP!=

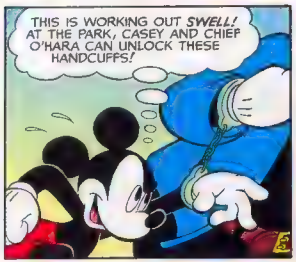
OH, FER THE LUVVA MIKE!
SAUL?!
PWAM!
KA-WHAM!
RUMBLE!
RUMBLE!
=UNGH!=
=URK!=
KRAK!
=UHHHN!= ...EH?! PETE'S PHONE!
RING! RING!
SAUL'S PROBABLY MADE THE MOUSE HIT BY NOW, PETE! WHERE WE GONNA MEET? IT'S ALMOST FIVE!
"MOUSE HIT"?! SO— THAT EXPLAINS A LOTTA THINGS! BUT HOW DO I ANSWER THIS...
WELL?
OF COURSE!
DE MARIS PARK, YUH BLASTED SWAB!
=UHHNN!=
LOW GROWL!

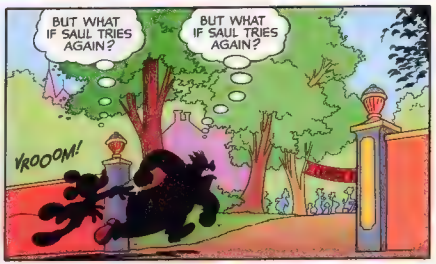

GEEZ, PETE! WHAT DID I SAY?
UH... HEY! GIMME DAT!

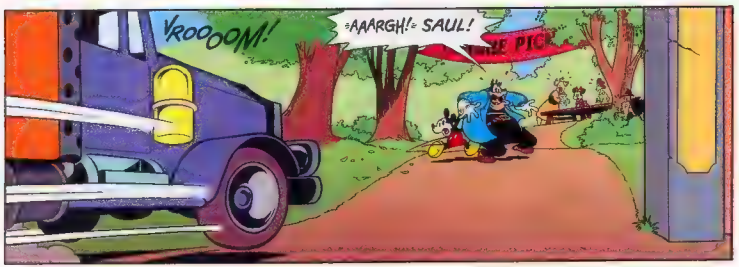

WE MEET AT DE MARIS PARK! FINE! NOW TAKE A LOAD OFF!
=HUH?!= ...YEAH, YEAH! SURE!

DE MARIS PARK, Huh? WE GOT PLACES TA GO AN' =HEH-HEH!= T'INGS TA DO, MOUSE!
=YOW!=


DIS IS WORKIN' OUT SWELL! AT A PARK, DERE'LL BE PLENTY O' BUSHES TA DO PRIVATE BIZNESS BEHIND!


THIS IS WORKING OUT SWELL! AT THE PARK, CASEY AND CHIEF O'HARA CAN UNLOCK THESE HANDCUFFS!


BUT WHAT IF SAUL TRIES AGAIN?
BUT WHAT IF SAUL TRIES AGAIN?
VROOOM!


VROOOOM!
=AAARGH!= SAUL!

!
!
WHEE-OOO!
WHEE-OOO!
ERRRR!
SCREEECH!
THAT'S SAUL THE SLOB, NOTORIOUS HIT-MAN! WHAT IN THE NAME OF—
KERR-R-R SLAM!
AN' THAT'S JACK THE JERK, THE NOTORIOUS FENCE! PINCH HIM AND FRISK HIM!
A!
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO BUY WITH ALL THIS CASH, JACK?
FRISK HIM AND FIND OUT! HE'S THE ONE THAT LED ME INTO THIS TRAP!
PETE! AND... MICKEY?
WHATEVER! PETE, LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN THOSE POCKETS!
WHADDAYA KNOW! HEY, CHIEF! DIDN'T I SAY I WAS GONNA LOCATE THAT STOLEN GEM ANY MINUTE?

MICKEY EXPLAINS HIS PREDICAMENT! AS THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE TURN—
WHY ARE SO MANY OFFICERS HERE, CHIEF?
THEY CAME TO WATCH CASEY IN THE THREE-LEGGED RACE...
WHICH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
MINNIE!
BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, MA'AM! I'M AFRAID DUTY CALLS, SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO—
OH?
MICKEY IS ENCUMBERED! SINCE I DON'T CARRY HANDCUFF KEYS, WE HAVE TO GO TO THE STATION TO FREE HIM!
NOT BEFORE HE RUNS IN THAT RACE!
WITH WHOEVER HE CAN!
=HUH?!= Y'CAN'T— YUH DON'T MEAN— NOT ME?!!
NOW, NOW! THESE GENTLEMEN CAME HERE EXPECTIN' TO SEE A THREE-LEGGED RACE! YOU WOULDN'T DISAPPOINT THEM, WOULD YE?
=GULP!=
AND SO—
FUNNY THING, PETE! I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE ENJOYING THIS RACE, BUT SOMEHOW... I AM!
AW, SHUT UP!

THE DUCK AND THE MOUSE SENT TO YOUR HOUSE!

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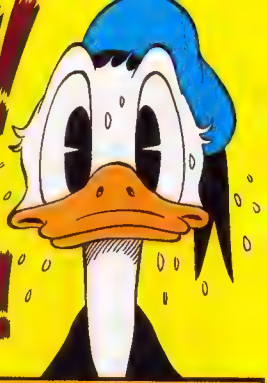
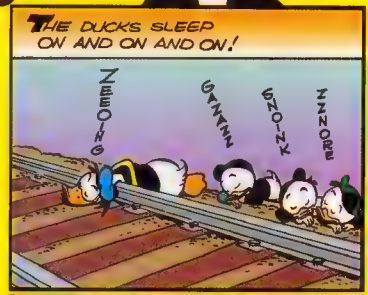
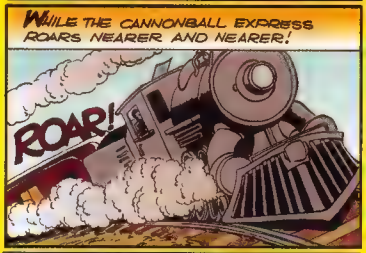
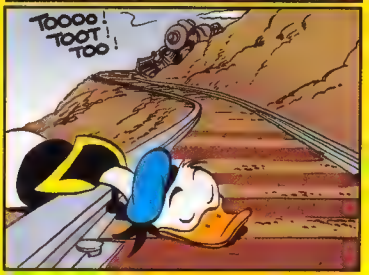


Will Donald survive the perils that await him in the pages of "Dangerous Disguise"? Find out in the next issue of Walt Disney's "Vacation Parade 2," available at your local comic book store in May of 2005.







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Walt Disney's VACATION PARADE 2

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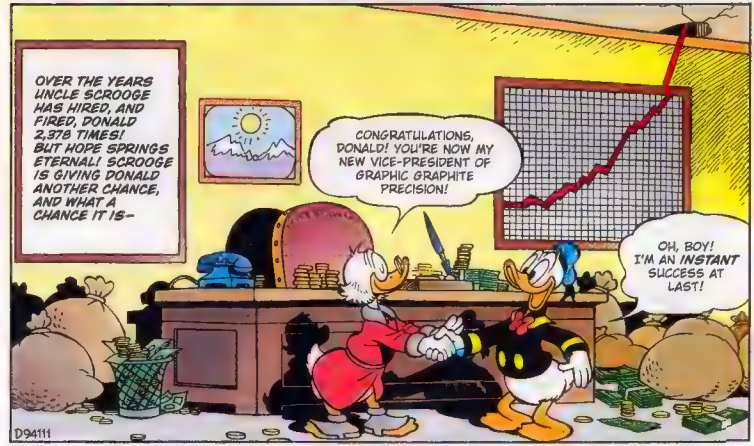
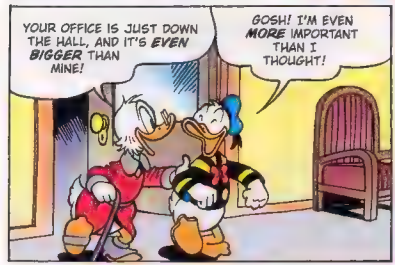
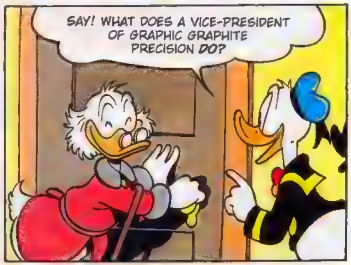
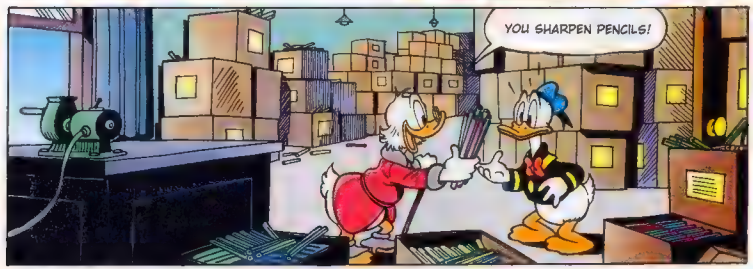
Walt Disney's

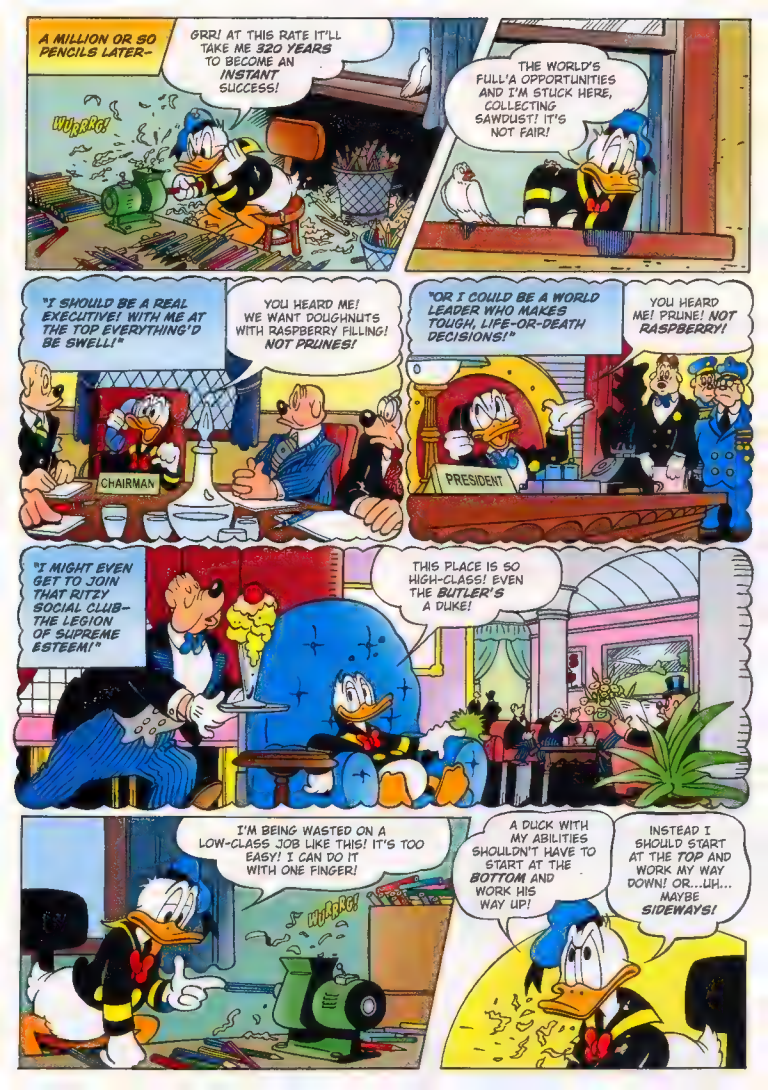
DONALD DUCK IN THE SWELL OF SUCCESS

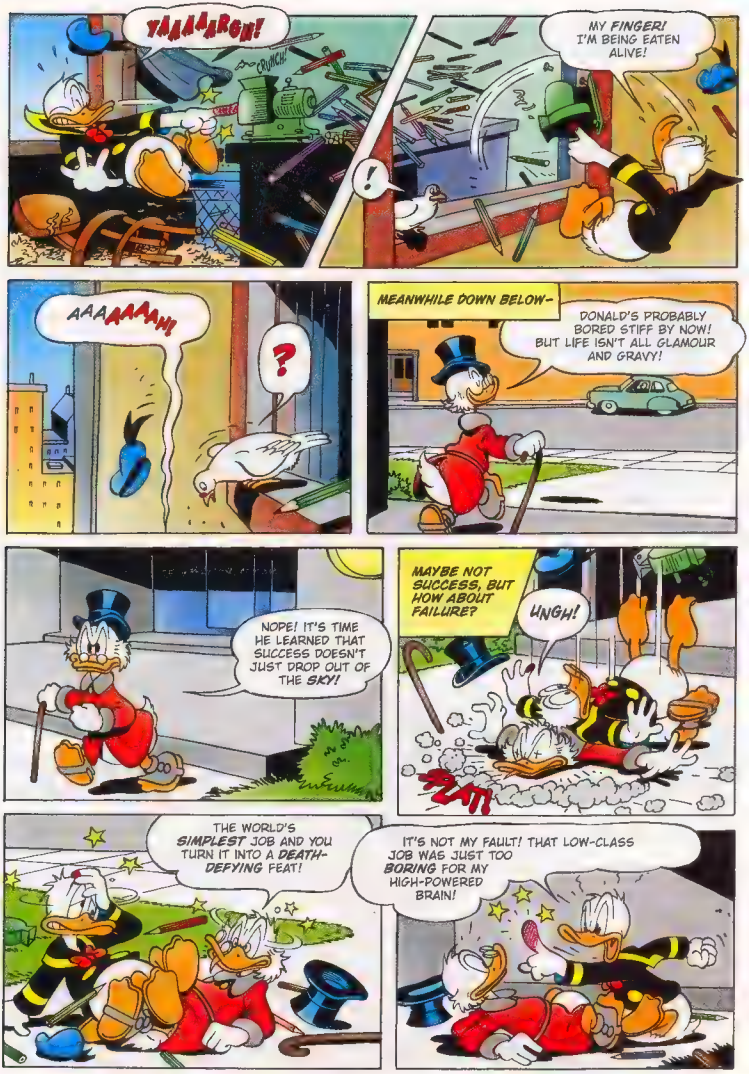

OVER THE YEARS UNCLE SCROOGE HAS HIRED, AND FIRED, DONALD 2,378 TIMES! BUT HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL! SCROOGE IS GIVING DONALD ANOTHER CHANCE, AND WHAT A CHANCE IT IS–
CONGRATULATIONS, DONALD! YOU'RE NOW MY NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF GRAPHIC GRAPHITE PRECISION!
OH, BOY! I'M AN *INSTANT* SUCCESS AT LAST!
D94111

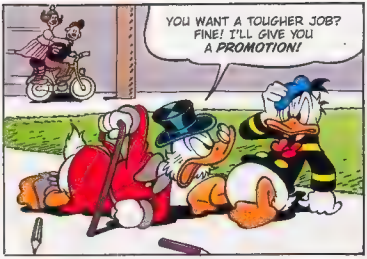


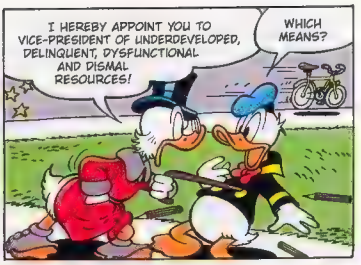




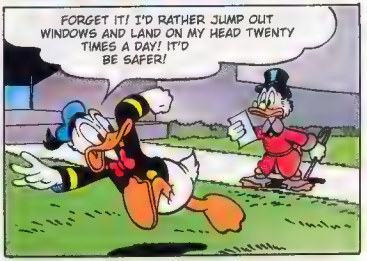

A MILLION OR SO PENCILS LATER-
GRR! AT THIS RATE IT'LL TAKE ME 320 YEARS TO BECOME AN INSTANT SUCCESS!
WHIRRR!
THE WORLD'S FULL'A OPPORTUNITIES AND I'M STUCK HERE, COLLECTING SAWDUST! IT'S NOT FAIR!
"I SHOULD BE A REAL EXECUTIVE! WITH ME AT THE TOP EVERYTHING'D BE SWELL!"
YOU HEARD ME! WE WANT DOUGHNUTS WITH RASPBERRY FILLING! NOT PRUNES!
CHAIRMAN
"OR I COULD BE A WORLD LEADER WHO MAKES TOUGH, LIFE-OR-DEATH DECISIONS!"
YOU HEARD ME! PRUNE! NOT RASPBERRY!
PRESIDENT
"I MIGHT EVEN GET TO JOIN THAT RITZY SOCIAL CLUB- THE LEGION OF SUPREME ESTEEM!"
THIS PLACE IS SO HIGH-CLASS! EVEN THE BUTLER'S A DUKE!
I'M BEING WASTED ON A LOW-CLASS JOB LIKE THIS! IT'S TOO EASY! I CAN DO IT WITH ONE FINGER!
WHIRRR!
A DUCK WITH MY ABILITIES SHOULDN'T HAVE TO START AT THE BOTTOM AND WORK HIS WAY UP!
INSTEAD I SHOULD START AT THE TOP AND WORK MY WAY DOWN! OR...UH... MAYBE SIDEWAYS!


YAAAARGH!
CRUNCH!
MY FINGER! I'M BEING EATEN ALIVE!
!
AAAAAAAH!
?
MEANWHILE DOWN BELOW-
DONALD'S PROBABLY BORED STIFF BY NOW! BUT LIFE ISN'T ALL GLAMOUR AND GRAVY!
NOPE! IT'S TIME HE LEARNED THAT SUCCESS DOESN'T JUST DROP OUT OF THE SKY!
MAYBE NOT SUCCESS, BUT HOW ABOUT FAILURE?
UNGH!
SPLAT!
THE WORLD'S SIMPLEST JOB AND YOU TURN IT INTO A DEATH-DEFYING FEAT!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! THAT LOW-CLASS JOB WAS JUST TOO BORING FOR MY HIGH-POWERED BRAIN!

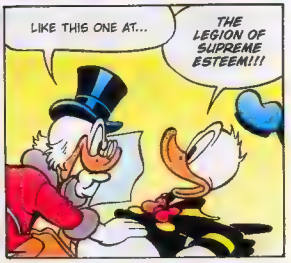

YOU WANT A TOUGHER JOB? FINE! I'LL GIVE YOU A PROMOTION!

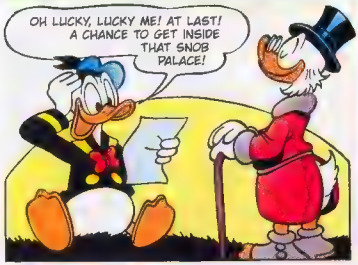

I HEREBY APPOINT YOU TO VICE-PRESIDENT OF UNDERDEVELOPED, DELINQUENT, DYSFUNCTIONAL AND DISMAL RESOURCES!
WHICH MEANS?

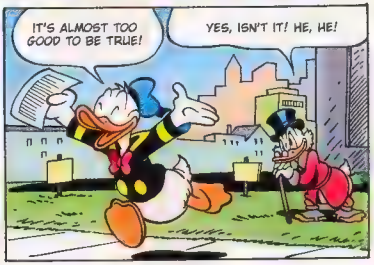
YOU'RE NOW MY NEW BILL COLLECTOR!


FORGET IT! I'D RATHER JUMP OUT WINDOWS AND LAND ON MY HEAD TWENTY TIMES A DAY! IT'D BE SAFER!

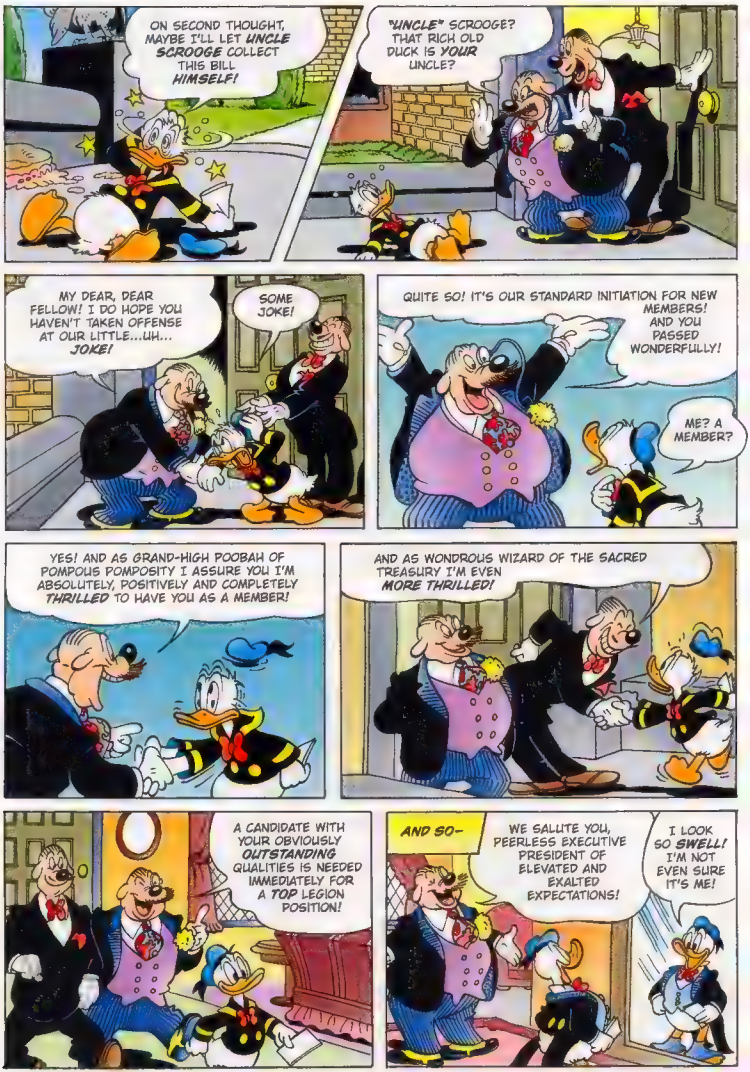
NONSENSE! YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO DANGEROUS! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET PEOPLE TO PAY THEIR BILLS!


LIKE THIS ONE AT...
THE LEGION OF SUPREME ESTEEM!!!


OH LUCKY, LUCKY ME! AT LAST! A CHANCE TO GET INSIDE THAT SNOB PALACE!

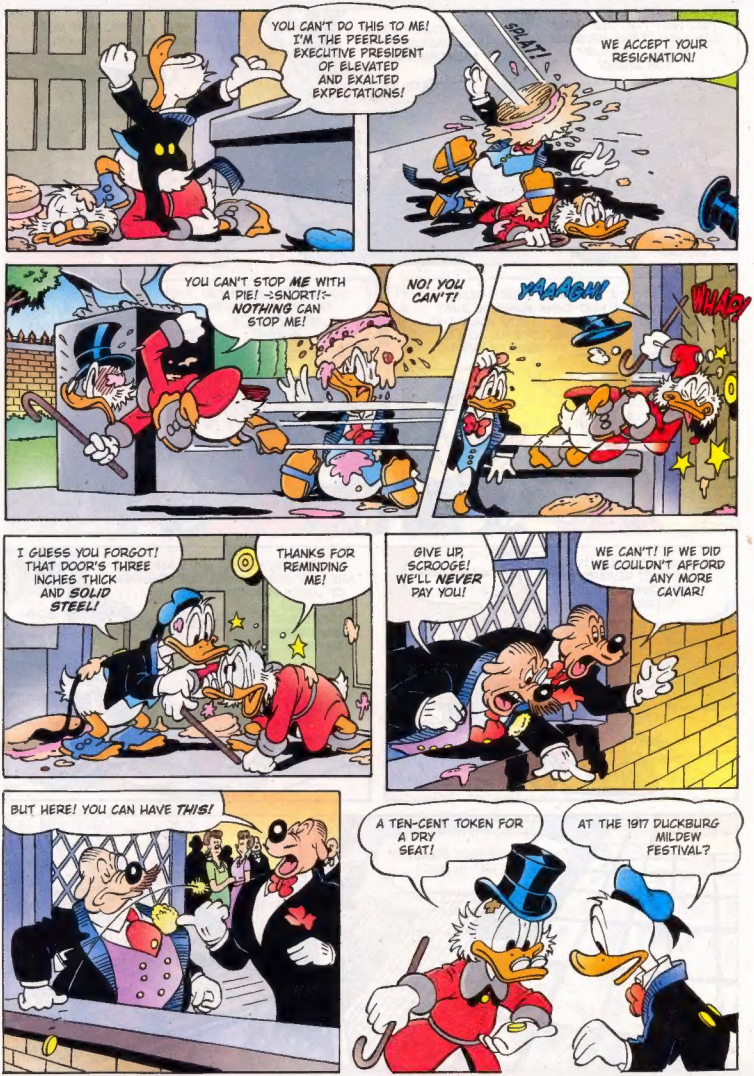

IT'S ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
YES, ISN'T IT! HE, HE!

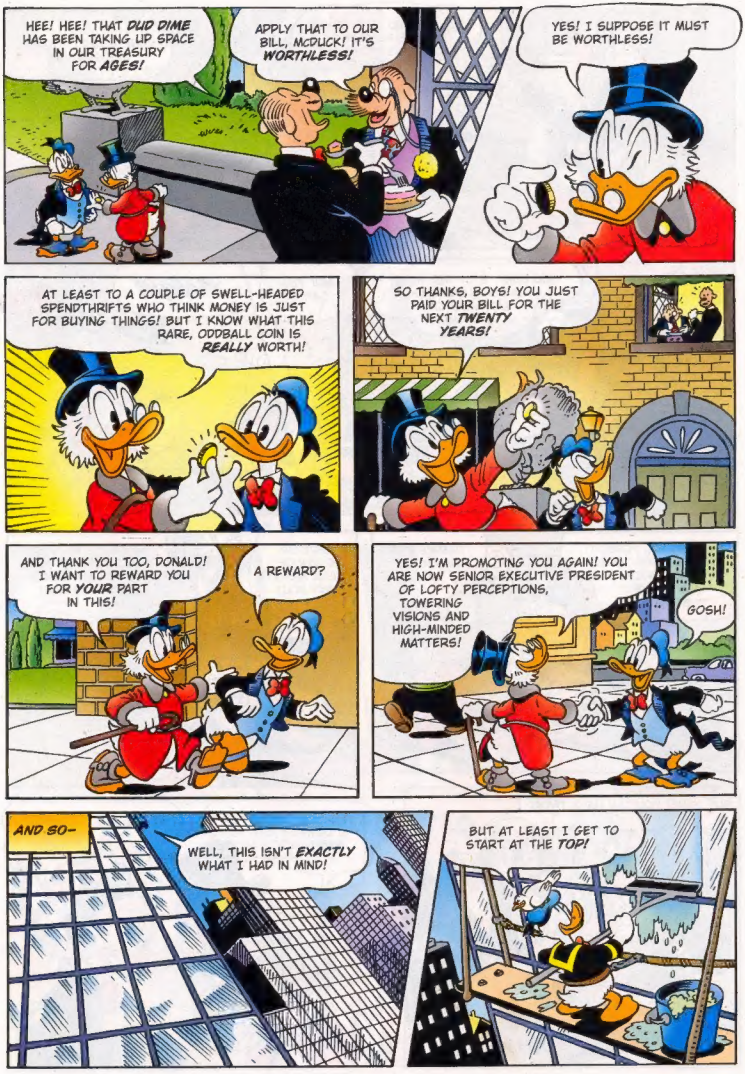
SOON-
BUTTER ME UP AND CALL ME A CRUMPET! WHAT A SPREAD!
AND TO THINK THESE HIGH ROLLERS FORGOT TO PAY THEIR BILL! TSK! TSK!
THE LEGION OF SUPREME ESTEEM
NO DOUBT THEY'LL BE GLAD I POINTED OUT THEIR LITTLE OVERSIGHT! THEY MAY EVEN GIVE ME A TIP!
Ding-a-ling!
WE SURE WILL! AND HERE IT IS!
SPLAT!
HAR! HAR! AND DOUBLE HAR!
THIS BILL COLLECTOR'S EVEN FUNNIER LOOKING THAN THE OTHERS McDUCK SENT!
WELL, I'M GONNA BREAK INTO HIGH SOCIETY!
EVEN IF I HAVE TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
OOOF!
SPLAT!


ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I'LL LET UNCLE SCROOGE COLLECT THIS BILL HIMSELF!
"UNCLE" SCROOGE? THAT RICH OLD DUCK IS YOUR UNCLE?
MY DEAR, DEAR FELLOW! I DO HOPE YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN OFFENSE AT OUR LITTLE...UH... JOKE!
SOME JOKE!
QUITE SO! IT'S OUR STANDARD INITIATION FOR NEW MEMBERS! AND YOU PASSED WONDERFULLY!
ME? A MEMBER?
YES! AND AS GRAND-HIGH POOBAH OF POMPOUS POMPOSITY I ASSURE YOU I'M ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY AND COMPLETELY THRILLED TO HAVE YOU AS A MEMBER!
AND AS WONDROUS WIZARD OF THE SACRED TREASURY I'M EVEN MORE THRILLED!
A CANDIDATE WITH YOUR OBVIOUSLY OUTSTANDING QUALITIES IS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY FOR A TOP LEGION POSITION!
AND SO—
WE SALUTE YOU, PEERLESS EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF ELEVATED AND EXALTED EXPECTATIONS!
I LOOK SO SWELL! I'M NOT EVEN SURE IT'S ME!

BY THE WAY, MY LITTLE FEATHERED FRIEND, WE'LL BE HAPPY TO TAKE CARE OF THIS BILL FOR YOU!
IT'S REALLY JUST A SILLY MISUNDERSTANDING.
GREAT! I KNEW IT HAD TO BE A MISTAKE!
HEH! HEH! McDUCK WON'T FORECLOSE ON THE MORTGAGE NOW!
HE WON'T DARE! NOT WHEN HIS OWN NEPHEW IS A MEMBER!
AT LEAST WE'LL LET HIM THINK HE'S A MEMBER! FOR NOW!
SURE! WHAT CAN IT HURT? HA, HA!
TRY SOME CAVIAR, COUNTESS! IT'S SORT OF TASTY...IF YOU SPICE IT UP A BIT!
WITH KETCHUP AND PEPPER? NO! NO! AND A-A...
GRRP
THAT UNCOUTH LOUT! -SPUTTER!- THAT BOORISH BOOB! HE ISN'T HUMAN!
MAYBE NOT! BUT HE SEEMS TO BE A MEMBER!
TEN TERRIBLE MINUTES LATER-
SO FAR THAT DUCK'S RIPPED A BILLIARD TABLE, INSULTED THREE GOVERNORS AND EATEN 22 POUNDS OF CAVIAR!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER!

SAY, FELLAHS! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
THUD!
BASH!
OPEN UP!
OPEN UP, YOU UPPER-CRUST CHISELERS!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT RID OF MY NUMBSKULL NEPHEW, BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF ME!
HM! I'D SAY IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER INITIATION!
NO!
HAVE SOME DESSERT, UNCLE SCROOGE!
PPT
SPLAT!
HEE! HEE! WHAT FUN!
McDUCK'LL NEVER GIVE US A BREAK ON OUR MORTGAGE NOW!
DIMWIT DUCK, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BUTTER UP YOUR UNCLE!
NOT CREAM HIM!
THUD!
OOOF!


YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M THE PEERLESS EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF ELEVATED AND EXALTED EXPECTATIONS!
SPLAT!
WE ACCEPT YOUR RESIGNATION!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME WITH A PIE! ~SNORT!~ NOTHING CAN STOP ME!
NO! YOU CAN'T!
YAAAGH!
WHAT?
I GUESS YOU FORGOT! THAT DOOR'S THREE INCHES THICK AND SOLID STEEL!
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME!
GIVE UP, SCROOGE! WE'LL NEVER PAY YOU!
WE CAN'T! IF WE DID WE COULDN'T AFFORD ANY MORE CAVIAR!
BUT HERE! YOU CAN HAVE THIS!
A TEN-CENT TOKEN FOR A DRY SEAT!
AT THE 1917 DUCKBURG MILDEW FESTIVAL?


HEE! HEE! THAT DUD DIME HAS BEEN TAKING UP SPACE IN OUR TREASURY FOR AGES!
APPLY THAT TO OUR BILL, McDUCK! IT'S WORTHLESS!
YES! I SUPPOSE IT MUST BE WORTHLESS!
AT LEAST TO A COUPLE OF SWELL-HEADED SPENDTHRIFTS WHO THINK MONEY IS JUST FOR BUYING THINGS! BUT I KNOW WHAT THIS RARE, ODDBALL COIN IS REALLY WORTH!
SO THANKS, BOYS! YOU JUST PAID YOUR BILL FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS!
AND THANK YOU TOO, DONALD! I WANT TO REWARD YOU FOR YOUR PART IN THIS!
A REWARD?
YES! I'M PROMOTING YOU AGAIN! YOU ARE NOW SENIOR EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF LOFTY PERCEPTIONS, TOWERING VISIONS AND HIGH-MINDED MATTERS!
GOSH!
AND SO–
WELL, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
BUT AT LEAST I GET TO START AT THE TOP!

Halloween has always been one of my favorite times of year, and each Halloween I look forward to the annual celebration of the holiday in the pages of Disney comics. *Donald Duck and Friends* 320 treated us to three stories that were all entertaining, slightly twisted, and, yes, a little tricky!

"I, Monster" was a clever entry from the always-delightful Janet Gilbert. Although I've never seen the famed Disney/Pixar flick, I kinda doubt that the Monsters, Inc. organization in this story is the same one that appeared in that movie. Was this story written before the film's release? My favorite scenes in "I, Monster" did involve the monsters (particularly Donald's truly "extreme makeover" and his monster school lessons). I was amazed by Daniel Branca's energetic, spontaneous artwork, and his lovingly detailed characterizations of each of the monsters. Combined with Marie Javins' colors, Branca's astounding drawings almost leaped off the pages.

The McGreals continue to prove with Mickey Mouse in "Werewolf Worries" Part 1 that they are among the "Modern Masters of the Mouse." Their cliffhanger, in fact, was directly out of the Gottfredson/Murry "school of agonizingly intense and curiosity-inducing cliffhangers." Rodriques' art complemented their scrappy, no-holds-barred take on the mouse, and Russell Miller's colors created just the right mood for this creepy dramedy.

Finally, John Lustig's relentlessly witty story, "Home-Front Hero," took me back to the days of my youth when I thought, like the nephews, that missing a daily installment of DuckTales or *Tale Spin* or *Batman: The Animated Series* was tantamount to the expiration of life itself. Little did I know then that each of those series boasted fewer than 150 episodes (and in some cases, only 65 episodes) and that particular daily installment would be rerun in only a matter of months.

I specifically enjoyed Donald's scenes in this story, especially the runaway ladder/whirlwind sequence. I also got a laugh from the nephews' portable electric halo device. So, that's how cartoon characters manufacture those halos so efficiently!

In short, great job, all! My only hope for this title is that the presence of reprints doesn't take the spotlight off the deserving creators of today! Unfortunately, the likes of Janet Gilbert, the McGreals, the Blocks, etc., often get overshadowed by the work of Don Rosa, William Van Horn, and Carl Barks (not that those creators aren't worthy of laud and honor). It's been nice having a few titles in which these newer creators had the limelight all to themselves.

—Pete Fernbaugh
via email

As you'd presumed, Janet wrote about her "Monsters, Inc." a year or more before the movie was released.

Your Halloween issues were great this year; congratulations on the first anniversary of your Duck and Mouse titles!

Both "I, Monster" and "Werewolf Worries" were visually inventive and fun to read. "I, Monster" started in a strange way—a werewolf kidnaps Donald, for no apparent reason—but as soon as Donald gets to the monsters' HQ, the story takes off in a crazy, creative direction. The blob character was especially interesting and spooky. Every panel that the blob was in, he was the center of attention, stretching and dripping everywhere. Donald's transformation into a monster was horrifying, and it was scary to see him apparently jump into his monster training lessons. It was a relief a couple of pages later to see that he's just playing along in the hope of finding an escape.

"Werewolf Worries" was just beautiful to look at—the first page of black-and-white panels was the perfect way to start a story paying homage to old monster movies. I would love to see a monster movie theater really exist, like the one in this story—it's so warm and fun-loving, dedicated and creative. I wanted to go and hang out at the theater with Mickey. So it was horrifying to see the owner transformed into a werewolf, and trashing the theater—I really felt sad for him! This story didn't just invoke the trappings of old horror movies, it touched on their spirit too—the odd mystery of the transformations, the uncertainty about what's happening, the things that go bump in the dark. And best of all, it includes the horror of watching Goofy turn into a monster. In fact, that's why this Halloween issue was so successful, because it tapped into something really scary—it's not just that monsters exist, it's that the monsters used to be your friends. Both Donald and Goofy become monsters, a fun twist that gave me a little Halloween tingle.

By the way, I agree with the letter-writer who said that he'd like to see city and state listed on the letters pages; I think it makes the correspondents seem more real. Please include my location too.

—Danny Horn
Lansdowne, PA

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MONKEY BUSINESS!

GO BANANAS WITH SCOOP!

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SCOOP - IT'S CHIMPLY THE BEST!

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